

To J.P. Collier.

18, Gilbert Street, Grosvenor Square
April 7, 1855

My dear Collier,

I am afraid I shall not be able to get to the Shakespeare Society to-morrow, as I intended. My time has been so much cut up with these stupid squabbles in the Archaeological Association, that I have been hindered from attending to the other societies, and now I am struggling to get done my second volume of Bibliographic Literaria. When that is done I will finish the Chester Mysteries.

I am very anxious you should keep Mr Halliwell on the Council - will you see to it. If he should go off before this most calumnious affair about the MSS. ~~is~~ ^{ever} is publicly cleared (which it will be soon), the people who set the reports about would immediately turn it to his disadvantage, and it would be very annoying. I have sifted the matter most thoroughly, and I am as much convinced of ~~my~~ Halliwell's entire innocence as I am of my own existence. As far as I can see, nothing

but malice could have made anything out of it against him. It is my opinion that Tom. Coll. will acquit him of all suspicion - if they don't he is prepared to take the most public method he can of clearing himself. Tom. Coll. has not given him any reason to think they suspect him.

If there is any want of places vacancies, and it is proposed to keep me on the council, I would willingly go off to make way for Halliwell; if he goes off, it is my wish to go off with him, in order as far as I can to protect him. I am only writing all this to you in private, but if necessary you may fully state my feeling.

I am glad to hear they have elected you treasurer at the Fawdery - I have not been able to attend there lately, so that I fear I shall get put off the Council.

Believe me my dear Coll. & a
ever faithfully yours,

Thomas Wright

